

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 29, 30, 36, 37, 44, 45, 53, 55 and 56 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 29-56 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter added has been added. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has rejected claims 29, 31, 32, 36, 38, 39, 44, 46, 47, 53, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,146,196 to Burger et al. ("Burger" patent). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 29, 31, 36, 38, 40, 44, 53, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,245,027 to Ziegler, Jr. ("Ziegler" patent).

In order to render a claim anticipated under § 102, a single prior art reference must disclose **each and every element** of the claim in exactly the same way as recited in the claim. See Lindeman Maschinenfabrik v. Am Hoist and Derrick, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If any claimed element is absent from the prior art reference, there is no anticipation. See Rowe v. Dror, 112 F.3d 473, 478 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Burger describes a mated coaxial contact system 20 which includes a male portion 30 and a female portion 40; each portion 30, 40 is connected to a coaxial cable 22, 22'. (See Burger, col. 2, lines 8-14; Figs. 1-2). The male portion 30 includes a conductive pin contact 32, a dielectric washer or disc insulator member 34, a cylindrical dielectric insulator member 36 and a

tubular conductive metallic shielding sleeve 38. (Id., col. 2, lines 14-26). The female portion 40 includes a metallic pin socket 42, a dielectric washer or disc insulator member 44, a cylindrical dielectric insulator member 46 and a conductive metallic shielding sleeve 48. (Id.).

During an assembly, the cable 22 is first stripped to length, then solder is applied to a center conductor 50 and a braid 54. (Id., col. 2, line 54 – col. 3, line 3). The pin contact 32 is then crimped and the insulator member 36 is slid onto an insulation layer 52. The dielectric insulator member 36 is then pressed into the shielding sleeve 38, after which the pin contact 32, cable 22 and the disc insulator member 34 are pushed into the insulator member 36 and the shielding sleeve 38. Then the braid 54 is soldered to the shielding sleeve 38 to electrically connect and physically secure the shielding sleeve 38 to the braid 54. (Id.).

Ziegler describes a coaxial connector. Figure 1 of Ziegler shows an interconnection where two halves 20, 80 of a coaxial cable 10, are mechanically and electrically joined by a connector 18 to provide a signal path between electrical or electronic components. (See Ziegler, col. 2, lines 45-50). The cable 10 includes an outer conductor 12 and a coaxially spaced center conductor 14 (i.e., inner conductor) separated by a cable dielectric 16. (Id., col. 3, lines 50-52). The half 20 includes a central metallic sleeve 22, an intermating metallic sleeve 44 fitted thereover, a metallic locking sleeve 72, a coaxially disposed contact metallic plug 60 and tubular dielectric insert 56. (Id., col. 3, lines 48-52, Figures 2 and 3). The half 80 includes a metallic sleeve 82, a metallic locking ring 110, a central contact plug 98, and a tubular dielectric insert 96. (Id., col. 3 48-56, Figures 2 and 3). Once the halves 20 and 80 are assembled, the metallic sleeves 22 and 82 are electrically connected while the dielectric inserts 56 and 96 separate the inner conductors 14 from the outer conductors 12. (Id., col. 3 58-59, Figures 2 and 3).

Claim 29 recited a coaxial line plug-in connection for connecting a first end of a first coaxial line and a second end of a second coaxial line. Each of the first and second coaxial lines has an inner conductor and an outer conductor and the outer conductors surround the inner

conductors. The coaxial line plug-in connection comprising:

- a socket having an end face;

- a plug;

- a separating element; and

- a $\lambda/4$ -coupling zone;

- wherein the separating element is of a dielectric material for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the first and second coaxial lines;*

- wherein the separating element further covers the end face of the socket; and

- wherein the socket and the plug couple the first end and the second ends on the $\lambda/4$ -coupling zone for transmitting microwave signals of a wavelength λ between the first and second coaxial lines.

(Emphasis added).

Although Burger shows two isolator members 36, 46, these isolator members 36, 46 serve for insulation of the pin contacts 32, 42 (i.e., inner conductors) from the shielding sleeves 38, 48 (i.e., outer conductors). Thus, there is an electrical connection between the shielding sleeves 38, 48 so that the shielding sleeves 38, 48 of the cable 22, 22' are not galvanically separated with a separating element. The present invention, on the other hand, as recited in the amended independent claim 29, provides for a separation element which is made of dielectric material and which is provided for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the coaxial lines. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Burger does not include any showing or suggestion of coaxial line plug-in connection which includes a separating element made of a dielectric material for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the coaxial lines as recited in amended independent claim 29 of the present application. Since independent claims 36, 44, 53, 55 and 56 include a similar limitation to the above-identified limitation of independent claims 29, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 29, 36, 44, 53, 55 and 56 are not anticipated by Burger patent and that this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claims 31, 32, 38, 39, 46 and 47 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claims 29, 36 and 44, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Ziegler discloses dielectric elements 56 and 96. However, dielectric elements 56

and 96 do not galvanically separate the outer contacting portions of the cable, namely the metallic sleeves 22 and 82, and are merely adapted for separation of the inner conductors 14 from the outer conductors 12. Therefore, the two halves 20 and 80 are still connected electrically through the metallic sleeves 22 and 82. The Examiner has also stated that "[the] dielectric insulator 56 surrounds the central conductors 14 and space [sic] apart[sic] the outer conductors 12 thus inherently providing galvanic isolation." (Office Action, p. 4). The Examiner, however, has made no mention that Ziegler galvanically separates at least the outer conductor portion of the cable. In fact, the outer conductors of both ends of the coaxial lines are electrically connected in Ziegler (See Ziegler, col. 3, lines 58-59, fig.3) (connection by metallic sleeve 82, 22). The present invention, on the other hand, as recited in the amended independent claim 29, provides for a separation element which is made of dielectric material and which is provided for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the coaxial lines. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Ziegler does not include any showing or suggestion of a coaxial line plug-in connection which includes a separating element made of a dielectric material for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the coaxial lines as recited in amended independent claim 29 of the present application. Since independent claims 36, 44, 53, 55 and 56 include a similar limitation to the above-identified limitation of independent claims 29, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 36, 44, 53, 55 and 56 are also not anticipated by Ziegler and that this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claims 31, 32, 38, 39, 46 and 47 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claims 29, 36 and 44, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

III. CONCLUSION

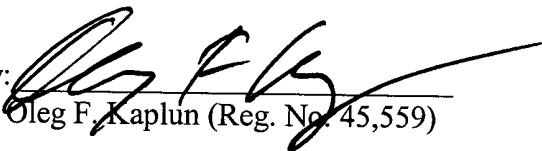
In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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